required to give purchase preference to the Public Sector Enterprises while placing supply orders or awarding contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) how many Ministries/Departments did not adhere to the DPE's order and due to this how many PSUs become sick; and

(d) what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Demands of Public Sector Employees

1899. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the specific demands of the public sector employees who plan to go on strike in case their demands are not met; and

(b) what are the details of the efforts made so far to avoid the strike by the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The chief concern of the public sector employees relate to the policy of Government in regard to privatisation and disinvestment, closure of sick PSUs, non payment of wages, guidelines regarding periodicity of wage revision, trade union rights and labour laws. Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to examine and recommend upon relevant issues.

Programme on DD-5 Tamil TV Channel

1900. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to made DD-5 (Podhigai TV) Tamil Channel 24 hours service;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of response to this channel and commercials are giving good revenue to Doordarshan; and

(c) what steps are being taken to bring into more good programmes on this channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) DD-5 (Podhigai TV) is already a 24 hour channel with effect from 1.1.2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that steps have been taken to acquire high quality software from well known producers under commissioned and sponsored categories for scheduling on the channel. This would include two daily soaps and two mega serials on prime time between 9.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. Plans are also afoot to showcase the entire history of Tamil literature and culture in a video album of 500 episodes, titled "OLI OVIYANGAL'.

Termination of Regional Telecast of Sponsored Programmes

1901. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prasar Bharati Corporation has taken a major policy decision terminating the regional telecast of sponsored programmes between 7.30 and 8.00 p.m. in five State Bihar, H.P., U.P., M.P. and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether, in view of the strong protect voiced in the media against such a step, Government would reconsider their decision; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that with a view to enlarge viewership and improve the quality of production and giving uniform slick look to Doordarshan programmes, the time slot from 7.30 to 8.00 p.m. has been taken for centralized programming while time slot from 8.00 to 8.30 p.m. has been given to the National news.